



Patrika

Chinmaya Mission Los Angeles

SUMMER EDITION

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[Sadhana Trail](#) **NEW**

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Upcoming Events

REGISTRATION FOR 2016 - 2017 BALVILHAR SESSIONS (NEW FAMILIES)
OPENS ON JULY 15TH!
For details, click [here](#)

[CHYK Summer Study Group](#)

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Every Saturday, June 25 - August 27

Kalanjali: The Voice	Jul 10	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Tech Gurukul: Let's Learn Scratch	Jul 11-15	9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Summer Camp by Padma Ramani	Jul 8-22	
Register here	Jul 25-29	

[Meditation Retreat in Mexico](#)

Dec 17-22

[Register here](#)

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Thus Spake The Master

The Mission activities are not mere rituals. They are not even purely spiritual. Our goal is to create history. We must prepare the next generation to come out of the legacy of idleness, poverty and stupidity into which we seem to have sunk in. To heave the community and the homes, out of this mire, the enduring values of Hindu Philosophy alone can help. With this goal in mind should all Bal Vihars work.

- Swami Chinmayananda

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Words Of The Wise

At Chinmaya Mission, we are not obliging people as though they are in need, showing pity or helping them. The idea is not of obliging them. We don't stand on a higher pedestal. We are going to work together—saha viryam karavahai. So, it is not any idea of superiority, to oblige anybody but it is with humility, to serve and when we serve them also, the service is rendered with the attitude that it is worship of God. We make people realize their own potential, their own talents, [enable them to] stand on their feet, empower them so that they take charge of their life and they grow independently.

- Swami Tejomayananda

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THINK!

Way of Vedanta

*Vedanta is a way of thinking,
not away from thinking,
It teaches how to see things differently
Not to see differences in things
It shows how all thoughts are false
Not to fall into any thought
It reveals life as series of experiences
Not to become serious about experiences...*

- Swami Ishwarananda

for e-Satsang blog, click [here](#)

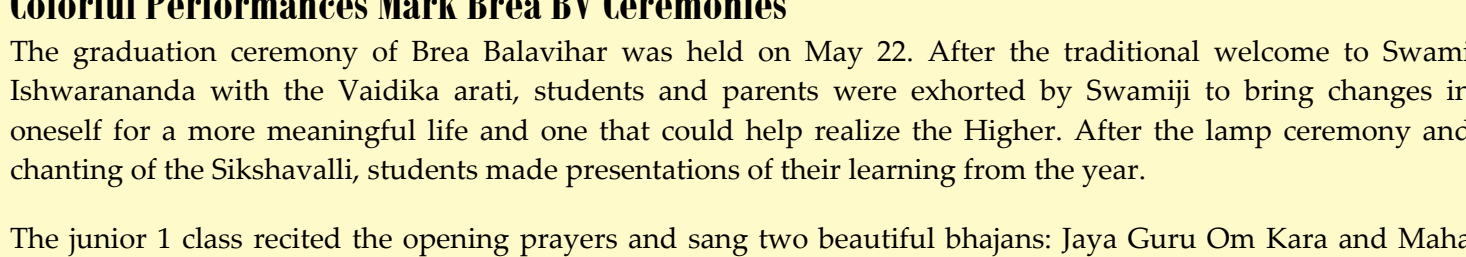
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BALAVILHAR GRADUATIONS (2015-2016)

Do the Right Thing, Swamiji Urges BV Graduates



Pujia Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda's advise urging youth to find inspiration in the scriptures in order to fearlessly live the values that have kept Hindu and Indian culture alive and thriving, was heard with keen awareness by the balavilhar graduating class of 2016. That video clip of Gurudev was followed by a reinforcing message from Swami Ishwarananda to the 27 graduates. Using the analogy of a driver who stops the car at a red light, he pointed out that we possibly do this because we follow rules or we fear getting caught by the police. Both of those reasons point to one not having any real conviction. But the one who stops with the full knowledge that it is the right thing to do is the one who can inspire, become leaders and in the final analysis are true seekers of the higher. The graduation ceremony began early on June 12 with the grads and their families assembling early. All the graduates were initiated in a solemn but uplifting ceremony as CHYKS.



Both Balavilhar sessions also held, on the same day, graduation ceremonies for their younger classes. Students from the sishu to the 11th grade speaking spoke of meaningful learning through the year. The beautiful candle light ceremony symbolic of knowledge being passed from our gurus to the youngest child to the accompaniment of the chanting of the Shikshavalli by teachers was done.

Volunteers who meet the myriad needs for the smooth functioning of Balavilhar and offer their seva with a smile through the entire year, were recognized by Swamiji with a token of appreciation.

- Vignesh Sadras



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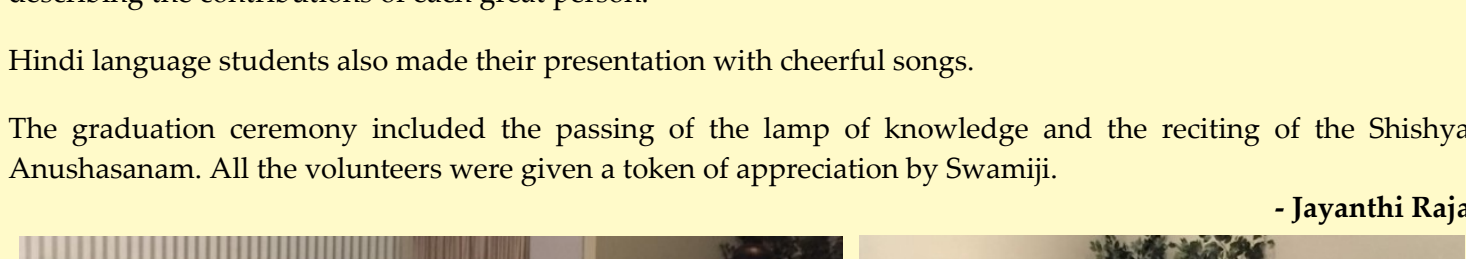
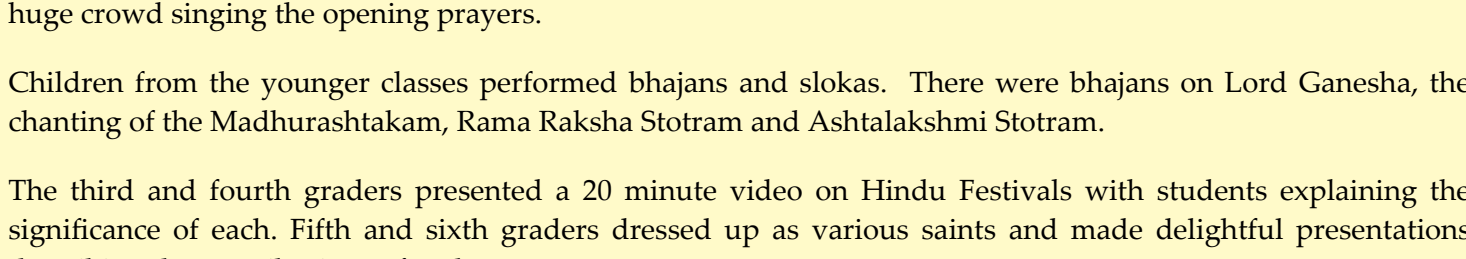
Colorful Performances Mark Brea BV Ceremonies

The graduation ceremony of Brea Balavilhar was held on May 22. After the traditional welcome to Swami Ishwarananda with the Vaidika arati, students and parents were exhorted by Swamiji to bring changes in oneself for a more meaningful life and one that could help realize the Higher. After the lamp ceremony and chanting of the Shikshavalli, students made presentations of their learning from the year.

The junior 1 class recited the opening prayers and sang two beautiful bhajans: Jaya Guru Om Kara and Maha Ganapathy and the junior 2 class recited the Rama Rakshak Stotram and sang in praise of Lord Krishna. The intermediate class presented a short but interesting skit which demonstrated the lesson that happiness can't be attained through wealth. The senior class also had a skit which focused on the Clean Ganga Project. Finally, the Yuva Kendra summarized the 10 qualities of Sanatan Dharma as discussed in the book, 'Hindu Culture' by Swami Tejomayananda. The four students who were graduating from Balavilhar spoke of their experiences and how Balavilhar has helped them in their daily lives.

After the arati, a delicious, year-end potluck dinner was enjoyed by everyone.

- Madhumitha Pudukottai



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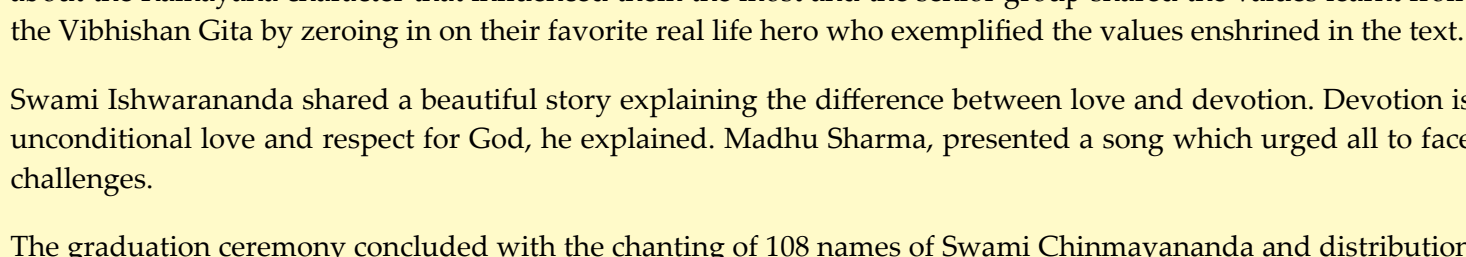
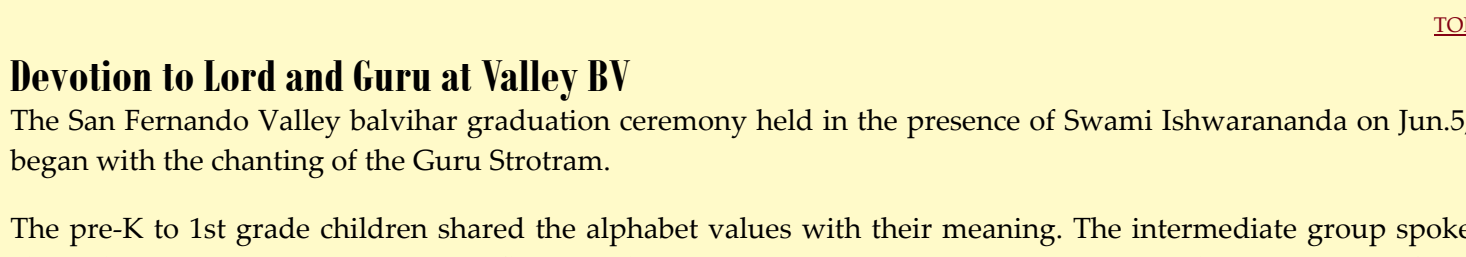
Student Recognition, Class Presentations at SGBV

The San Gabriel Balavilhar graduation began with the passing of the light of knowledge ceremony with the chanting of Shikshavalli.

Acharya Mahadevanji then delighted all present when he sang "The Impossible Dream" composed by Mitch Leigh, from the 1965 Broadway musical 'Man of La Mancha'. He spoke about how high goals should be set and obstacles overcome to follow our quest in life. The single graduating student Aishvarya Shree Mohan, spoke of how her over 14 years with balavilhar had helped her learn her culture and imbibe values that had helped shape her life.

All classes, pre-junior to youth group, as well as students of language classes gave presentations. Viji Mahadev presented the Gita chanting awards and participation certificates. Anusha Silla received a plaque for completing all levels of the Chinmaya Stotradhara program.

The graduation event concluded with a potluck dinner.



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Children's Presentations Delight at South Bay

The Temple Menorah in Redondo Beach was filled on June 12 with the sounds of balavilhar opening prayers as children and parents chanted it together on graduation day.

As planned, exactly at 3 pm, Swami Ishwaranandaji arrived from Tustin and the ceremony commenced with the huge crowd singing the opening prayers.

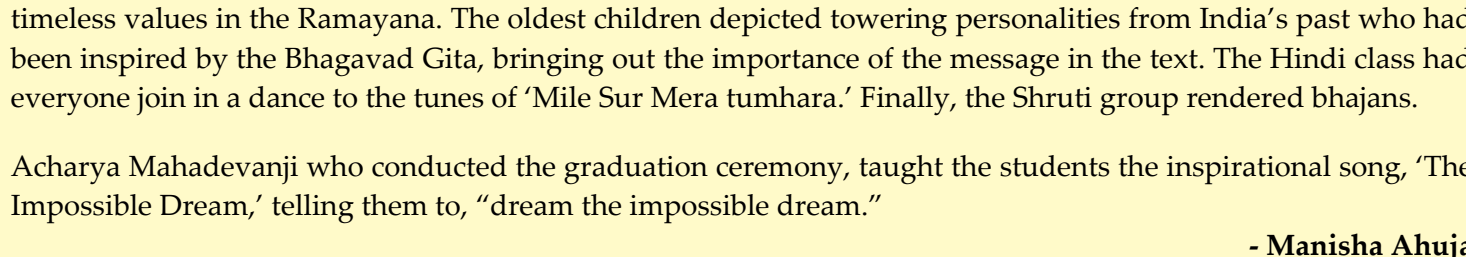
Children from the younger classes performed bhajans and slokas. There were bhajans on Lord Ganesha, the chanting of the Madhurashtakam, Rama Raksha Stotram and Ashtalakshmi Stotram.

The third and fourth graders presented a 20 minute video on Hindu Festivals with students explaining the significance of each. Fifth and sixth graders dressed up as various saints and made delightful presentations describing the contributions of each great person.

Hindi language students also made their presentation with cheerful songs.

The graduation ceremony included the passing of the lamp of knowledge and the reciting of the Shishya Anushasanam. All the volunteers were given a token of appreciation by Swamiji.

- Jayanthi Raja



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Redlands BV Reflects on A Wonderful Year Gone By

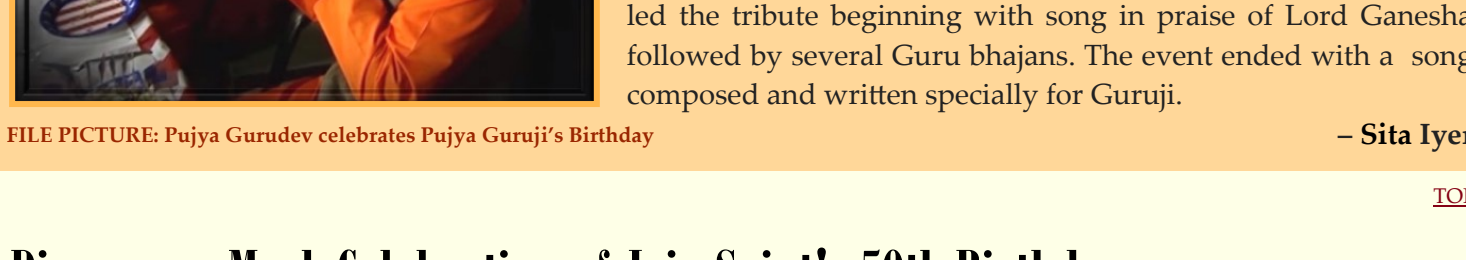
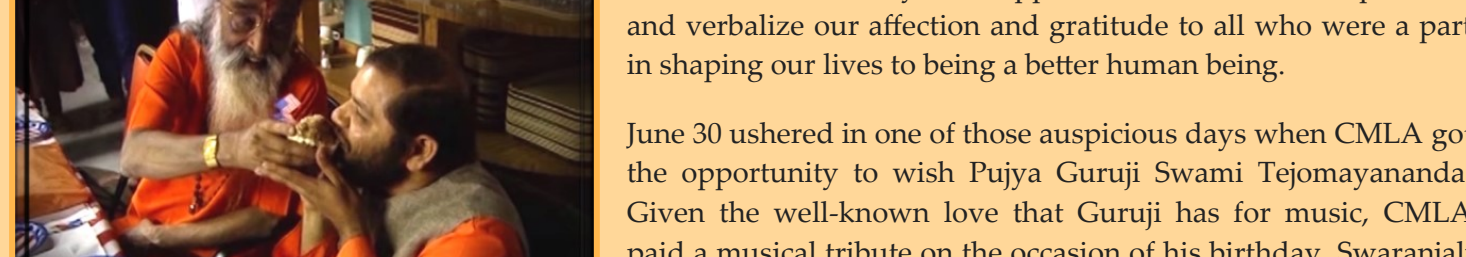
May 22 brought mixed feeling. It was a happy one to reflect upon the wonderful things that had been learned over 36 weeks of study and the commitment and dedication of wonderful families and volunteers. But it was also a sad one as it would mean friends would be away from each other for a couple of months!

Swami Ishwarananda led the opening prayers and everyone viewed a video that had been made compiling all the events that had been observed, including Diwali, Shivaratri and Mother's Day.

After Swamiji's inspiring talk, he gave away certificates to all the participants of the Gita chanting competition.

Swamiji passed on the light of knowledge to all the teachers and students while chanting Shishyanushasanam. The day concluded with arati.

- Srinivas Suryanarayanaiah



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Devotion to Lord and Guru at Valley BV

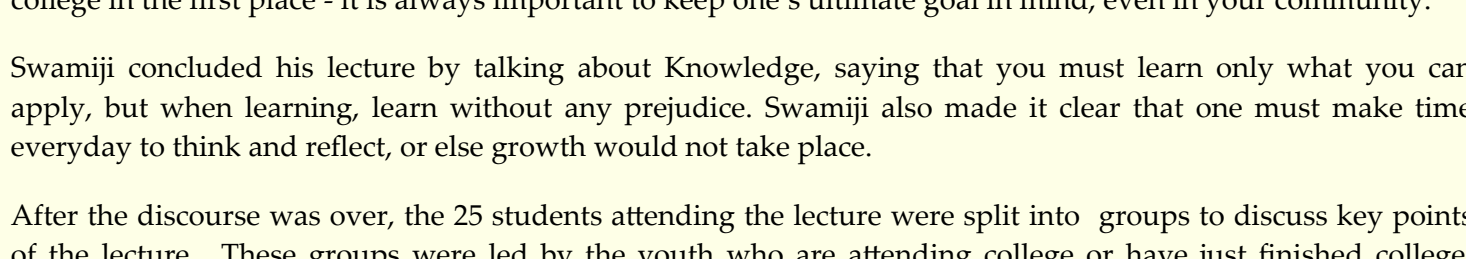
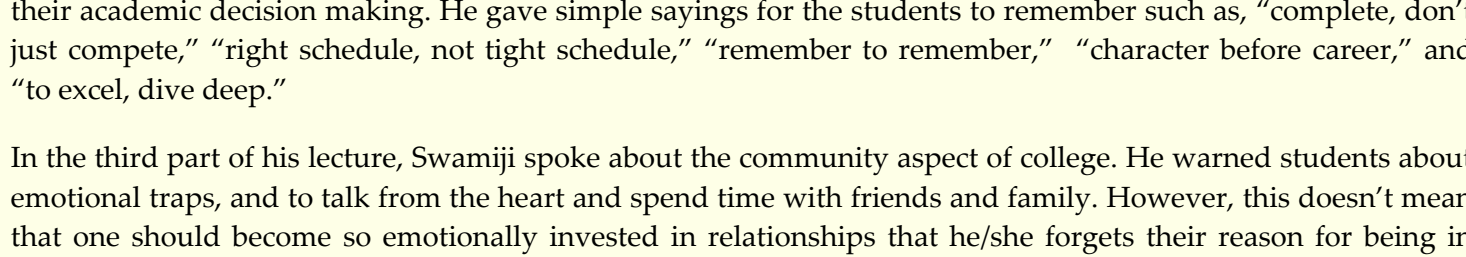
The San Fernando Valley balvihar graduation ceremony held in the presence of Swami Ishwarananda on Jun.5, began with the chanting of the Guru Stotram.

The pre-K to 1st grade children shared the alphabet values with their meaning. The intermediate group spoke about the Ramayana character that influenced them the most and the senior group shared the values learnt from the Vibhishan Gita by zeroing in on their favorite real life hero who exemplified the values enshrined in the text.

Swami Ishwarananda shared a beautiful story explaining the difference between love and devotion. Devotion is unconditional love and respect for God, he explained. Madhu Sharma, presented a song which urged all to face challenges.

The graduation ceremony concluded with the chanting of 108 names of Swami Chinmayananda and distribution of prasad.

- Garima Gupta



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Children Showcase Learning at Antelope Valley

Acharya Mahadevanji began the May 20 graduation ceremony in Antelope Valley with prayers. The ceremony was marked by a presentation on Lord Shiva in a dialog format. The younger kids whose syllabus was the gods and goddesses talked about Ganesha, Lakshmi, Ayappa and Vishnu while the youngest focused on the alphabet and showed how they represent the values taught at balavilhar.

Mahadevanji shared some encouraging words of wisdom, advising parents on how to have open dialog with their children even if they felt they were not being understood.

On the occasion volunteers and teachers were recognized for their service. The graduation ceremony and arati concluded the fruitful balavilhar year.

- Ruchi Tyagi



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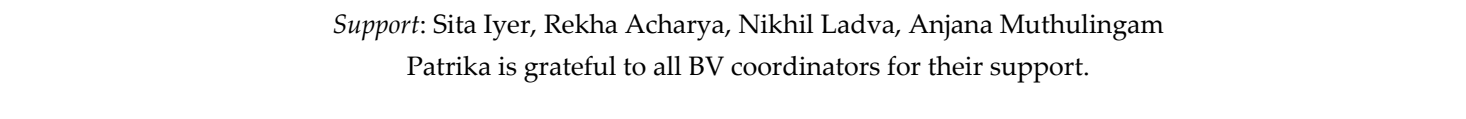
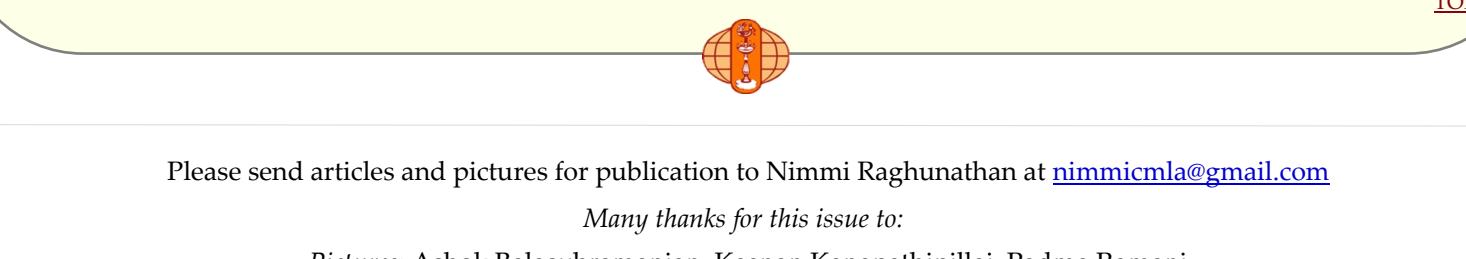
Agoura Graduation Ceremonies Center on Music, Dance

Agoura Balavilhar on May 22 began with a bharatanatyam dance salutation to Mother Earth, followed by opening prayers.

The Shishu Vihar charmed with Krishna, Acting out different scenes from the Lord's colorful childhood. The junior classes performed the Sagar Manthan, depicted the Hanuman Chalisa and enacted a play to show the timeless values in the Ramayana. The oldest children recited the towering personalities from India's past who had been inspired by the Bhagavad Gita, bringing out the importance of the message in the text. The Hindi class had everyone join in a dance to the tunes of 'Mile Sur Mera tumhara.' Finally, the Shruti group rendered bhajans.

Acharya Mahadevanji who conducted the graduation ceremony, taught the students the inspirational song, 'The Impossible Dream,' telling them to, 'dream the impossible dream.'

- Manisha Ahuja



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Joyous Musical Tribute for Gururji

Marking important milestones is a valuable way to see the progression of our lives. Nowhere is this truer than birthday celebrations. Birthdays are opportunities to offer compliments and verbalize our affection and gratitude to all who were a part in shaping our lives to being a better human being.

June 30 ushered in one of those auspicious days when CMLA got the opportunity to wish Pujia Gururji Swami Tejomayananda. Given the well-known love that Gururji has for music, CMLA paid a musical tribute on the occasion of his birthday. Swaranjali led the tribute beginning with song in praise of Lord Ganesha followed by several Guru bhajans. The event ended with a song composed and written specially for Gururji.

- Sita Iyer

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Discourses Mark Celebration of Jain Saint's 50th Birthday

A warm celebration commemorating the 50th birthday of Pujia Gurudevshri Rakeshbhai Jhaveri was held in San Diego. Propounding the path of Bhagwan Mahavira, the founder of Shrimad Rajchandra Mission, Dharampur, he is a spiritual visionary and considered a modern day mystic. Felicitating him and adding to the spiritual aura of the event were Swami Ishwarananda and Pujia Manakmuniji.

A riveting film, 'Unmoved Mover - A Mystic and His Mission' on the life of Gurudevshri Rakeshbhai was screened on the occasion. Swamiji and Manakmuniji in their talks encouraged the audience to understand the importance of the Guru in their lives. Swamiji emphasized the role of Guru seva. Untrusting, unquestioned and loving service, he explained, will purify the heart and intellect of the sevak, ensuring the blossoming of the sadhak. Swamiji also released two books, 'Sadguru Nuggets' and 'Sadguru Insights.'

This was followed by an enlightening discourse given by Gurudevshri Rakeshbhai.

-Punita Shah

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Yuvakendra Learns About PACKing the Right Stuff

On June 12 in Chinmaya Rameshwaram, Swami Ishwarananda gave a "What to Pack for College" presentation to the Yuvakendra as a way to prepare college students for the upcoming year.

Swamiji divided the entire presentation into four different sections by using the acronym PACK: Personal, Academic, Community, and Knowledge.

In the Personal section, Swamiji spoke about how one must look after themselves by building self esteem, choosing to be proactive, standing on principles, not compromising on their promises, and admitting mistakes. Without having a strong, independent personality, it is difficult for one to succeed in their college endeavors because they can be swayed very easily.

For the Academic portion of the presentation, Swamiji made strong points about how one must be logical in their academic decision making. He gave simple sayings for the students to remember such as, "complete, don't just complete," "right schedule, not tight schedule," "remember to remember," "character before career," and "to excel, dive deep."

In the third part of his lecture, Swamiji spoke about the community aspect of college. He warned students about emotional traps, and to talk from the heart and spend time with friends and family. However, this doesn't mean that one should become so emotionally invested in relationships that he/she forgets their reason for being in college in the first place - it is always important to keep one's ultimate goal in mind, even in your community.

Swamiji concluded his lecture by talking about Knowledge, saying that you must learn only what you can apply, but when learning, learn without any prejudice. Swamiji also made it clear that one must make time everyday to think and reflect, or else growth would not take place.

After the discourse was over, the 25 students attending the lecture were split into groups to discuss key points of the lecture. These groups were led by the youth who are attending college or have just finished college. Students were able to take a more personal approach to the lecture with questions such as "What aspects of college are you most intimidated by?" Overall the presentation was a rewarding experience which many students will not only cherish but useful for their university years and lives ahead.

- Yashasvi Chandrabhatt

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Kids Get Hands on Experience in Programming

'Tech Gurukul - Lets learn Python' was an eight day program, held in the end of June, that introduced kids grade 4-8 to basic python programming concepts. For the kids in attendance, this was the very first programming language class they were attending. Keeping this in mind the learning was project based with the kids working on several real life problems. A typical day included about 7-10 programs and an unplugged activity that reinforced programming concepts.

The kids learned to apply their learning in developing a simple file processing program. They were able to analyze the summer camp registration file and generate reports into an output file.

The session concluded with a Google slide presentation on what they had learned, made by the students themselves. The children presented it to Swami Ishwarananda who lauded the kids and gave them some useful tips. The Tech Gurukul team plans to conduct more programming camps that will lead the kids toward more advanced skills like App development, Game development and the like.

- Padma Ramani

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Time and Its Import on Man Explained at Antelope Valley Temple

On the auspicious occasion of the 75th birth year of Pujyashri Matholi Saraswathy Amma of Chennai, a satsang with Swami Ishwarananda was held at the Hindu Temple of Antelope Valley on Jun 18. Swamiji based his discourses on two of her publications: the Tamil 'Kalam Chollum' (Time Will Tell) and 'Enlightenment.'

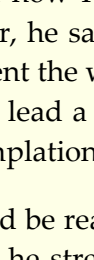
Swamiji began by praising 'Kalam Chollum' as an invigorating work and that Amma's thought process was simply poetic. He said the metrical flow of the Tamil language kept him captivated from the first to last page.

In his discussion on the book, Swamiji referred to how Kalam (Time) plays out for us: as a teacher, healer, fortifier of patience and creation itself. On the latter, he said, time is not in the clock but with us. Time lost is never gained, and our mindfulness of it would prevent the wasting of something precious. Time, he pointed out, allows us to reflect on our behavior so that we may lead a righteous life. Noble achievements are earned only with time: with effort, patience, quietude and contemplation filling it.

'Enlightenment,' a work full of Puranic stories should be read by all Swamiji said, as it contains universal truths in a nutshell. Narrating one of the stories in there, he stressed the truth in it - that the purpose of going to a temple or an auspicious place on a pilgrimage was to worship the Lord, submit our ego and ask for forgiveness.

- Dr. Pathmaraja

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Please send articles and pictures for publication to Nimmi Raghunathan at nimmicmla@gmail.com

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